

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, LY, XF
SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI

SUMMARY. LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY CRITICIZES US, EGYPT, AND
SUDAN. SUGGESTS SOLUTION OF M.E. CRISIS IN ARAB HANDS.
FONSEC DESCRIBES SADAT AS AGENT OF US IMPERIALISM,
EXPLAINS LIBYAN POLICY ON ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, CHAD, SUDAN
AND RELATION WITH SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN AUGUST 4 INTERVIEW GRANTED TO KUWAITI PUBLICATION
AL-WATAN, LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ALI TURAYKI COMMENTS
ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE KEEPING EFFORTS, RECENT EGYPTIAN-
LIBYAN HOSTILITIES, ETHIOPIA AND CHAD, SUDAN, AND
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RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS.

2. U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. LIBYAN FONSEC
TURAYKI CRITICIZED CURRENT US AND EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO
REACH A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. IN INDIRECT
CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT SADAT, TURAYKI STATED THAT LIBYA
CONSIDERED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE SOLUTION RESTS WITH

THE "BIG POWERS" AND THAT US HELD 99 PERCENT OF THE CARDS FOR A SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AN INSULT TO THE ARABS. TURAYKI PREFACED THIS REMARK BY STATING THAT THE SOLUTION WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE ARAB NATION WHICH WAS CAPABLE "OF OVERCOMING CATASTROPHES AND SETBACKS." HE STATED THAT THE ARAB NATION CONSIDERED THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE THE BASIC ISSUE AND THAT NO STATE OR PRESIDENT COULD DECIDE THIS ISSUE. HE DESCRIBED THE ARAB SITUATION AS VERY BAD AT PRESENT AND FURTHER CRITICIZED PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WILLINGNESS OF EGYPTIAN FOMIN FAHMY TO MEET WITH HIS ISRAELI COUNTERPART IN WASHINGTON BEFORE A CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP TO THE AREA, THE LIBYAN FONSEC EXPRESSED IGNORANCE OF THE SECRETARY BRINGING A SPECIFIC DRAFT SOLUTION. HE INDICATED THAT NO SOLUTION HAD BEEN MARKED ON A MAP AND THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT PRESENTED A SOLUTION BECAUSE AN ISRAELI MAP WOULD STRETCH "FROM THE NILE TO THE EUPHRATES." AS FOR THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE, TURAYKI STATED THAT THERE WAS UNCERTAINTY IN THE ARAB POSITION. HE CRITICIZED EGYPT FOR ALLEGEDLY VACILLATING BETWEEN ITS ORIGINAL POSITION OF NOT CONCEDING THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA AND RECENT ATTEMPTS BY EGYPT TO BYPASS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. IN RESPONSE TO AL-WATAN CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION CONCERNING LIBYA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, TURAYKI MERELY RESPONDED THAT THE PLO WAS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS AND LIBYA SUPPORTED STANDS TAKEN BY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WITHOUT "ANYONE'S TRUSTEESHIP OR SUPERVISION."

4. TURAYKI ALSO CRITICIZED ISRAELI PRIMIN BEGIN FOR THE APPARENT AMBIVALENCE OF STATING ISRAEL HAD NO PRECONDITIONS FOR GOING TO GENEVA, BUT ISRAEL REGARDED THE WEST BAK AND BAZA AS "LIBERATED TERRITORY" AND REFUSED TO DISCUSS THEIR FUTURE IN GENEVA. ACCORDING TO TURAYKI LIBYA'S SOLUTION FOR THE ARAB-ISRAELI DEBACLE RESTS WITH THE ARAB NATION AND NOT WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL STATE. IN A VAGUE GENERALITY, TURAYKI INDICATED THAT LIBYA BELIEVED THE ONLY "PATRIOTIC SOLUTION" RESTS WITH THE ARAB NATION AND THAT LIBYA WAS WILLING TO PLACE ALL OF ITS RESOURCES TO REGAIN "ARAB RIGHTS."

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5. LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN HOSTILITIES. TURAYKI STATED THAT
THE RECENT EGYPTIAN ATTACK AGAINST LIBYA WAS
"ABSOLUTELY INSEPARABLE FROM THE QUESTION OF AN
AMERICAN SPONSORED SETTLEMENT." HE CLAIMED THAT
THERE WERE BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REASONS FOR
EGYPT'S ATTACK ON LIBYA. HE DESCRIBED THE EGYPTIAN
ECONOMY AND POLITICAL SITUATION AS COLLAPSING AND
SAID THAT EGYPT'S OPEN DOOR POLICY HAD "FAILED
DRASTICALLY AND HAD NULLIFIED GAINS OF WORKERS AND
PREASANTS." TURAYKI STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS SADAT
HAD DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM "CRUSHING AND CHRONIC
DOMESTIC CRISES BY PLAYING THE ROLE OF POLICEMAN FOR
THE US IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA." TURAYKI ACCUSED THE
US OF ASKING SADAT TO "PAVE THE WAY FOR THE
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IMPOSITION OF US CAPITALISTIC SOLUTION OF THE

PALESTINIAN AND MIDDLE EAST CRISES." TURAYKI CLAIMED THAT IN THE SINAI AGREEMENT, SADAT HAD AGREED TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND PROGRESSIVE ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON AND GAZA. TURAYKI CLAIMED SADAT UNDERTOOK AN ATTACK UPON LIYBA TO "PROVE TO THE US THAT ISRAEL IS NOT THE ONLY US BASE BUT THAT EGYPT CAN BE DEPENDED ON AS A SECOND BASE FOR PROTECTING US INTERESTS."

6. ETHIOPIA. THE LIBYAN FONSEC CLAIMED THAT "REACTIONARY FORCES" WERE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE REGIME IN ETHIOPIA AND THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION WITH AN AIM AT STRIKING BOTH OF THEM. HE ASKED WHERE WERE THESE REACTIONARY FORCES AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION DURING THE ERA OF HAILE SELASSIE, THE "AGENT OF ISRAEL AND THE US?" TURAYKI CLAIMED THAT EGYPT AND THE SUDAN HAD PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION AND SUPPORTED THE EMPEROR'S REGIME. HE STATED THAT LIBYA HAD NOTIFIED THE ERITREAN LEADERS THAT LIBYA OPPOSED THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ERITREAN ISSUE TO STRIKE "AT THE AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE FOCES BECAUSE THE AIM OF IMPERIALISM-ZIONISM REACTION IS TO STRIKE AT BOTH THE ERITREAN AND ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONS." TURAYKI DESCRIBED ERITREAN ISSUE AS A DOMESTIC ETHIOPIAN ISSUE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

7. CHAD. TURAYKI DESCRIBED THE CRISIS IN NORTHERN CHAD AS A REVOLUTION OF MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS DURATION AND A DOMESTIC PROBLEM OF CHAD. HE STATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT LIBYA WOULD HELP ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN THE INTERESTS OF CHAD PEOPLE, BUT WARNED AGAINST INTERVENTION BY "REACTIONARY FORCES AND STRIKES AT THE CHAD REVOLUTION IN THE PURSUIT OF A REACTIONARY PLAN IN THE AREA."

8. SUDAN. TURAYKI REGRETTED THAT EGYPT HAD IMPOSED A "TRUSTEESHIP OVER THE SUDANESE PEOPLE." HE CLAIMED THAT AN EGYPTIAN OCCUPATION OF SUDAN WAS CLEARLY INDICATED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S ALLEGED STATEMENT "I WILL NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO TOUCH ME IN SUDAN." TURAYKI CLAIMED THAT HE WAS "ASTOUNDED" BY EGYPT'S PRESENT STAND AND RECALLED THAT WHEN LIBYA SUPPORTED SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMEIRI, PRESIDENT SADAT ALLEGEDLY TOLD COL QADHAFI TO "LET THIS SLAVE FALL DOWN." TURAYKI DESCRIBED THE PRESENT RELATIONS

BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN AS BASED ON INDENTICAL INTERESTS AIMED AT DESTROYING "EVERYTHING PROGRESSIVE IN SUDAN." HE CRITICIZED EGYPT AND SUDAN FOR CURRENTLY PROVIDING EXTENSIVE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE GRANDSON OF HAILE SELASSIE IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN REGIME AND THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION.

9. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING LIBYAN RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC AND SOVIET UNION, TURAYKI STATED THAT LIBYA WAS A NEUTRAL STATE AND DETERMINED ITS POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH "THE PAN-ARAB CAUSE AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE." HE STATED THAT THE SOCIALIST BLOC AND THE SOVIET UNION CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE ARABS AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY VARIOUS MEANS BUT THAT LIBYA DID NOT EXPECT "NON-ARABS TO BE MORE ARAB THAN THE ARABS." HE STATED THAT LIBYA'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET UNION WAS BASED ON THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT OF THE ARAB POSITIONS. TURAYKI FURTHER DENIED THAT SOVIET MILITARY BASES EXIST IN LIBYA. JOHNS

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